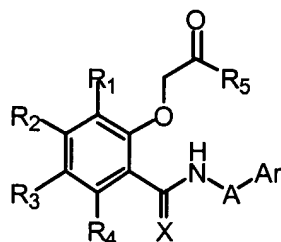


Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended) A compound of the formula:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

A is a ~~covalent bond~~, C₁-C₄ alkylene group optionally substituted with C₁-C₂ alkyl or mono- or disubstituted with halogen, ~~preferably fluoro or chlore~~;

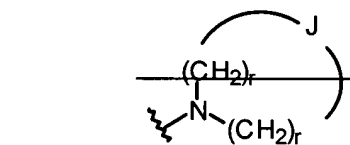
X is oxygen, sulfur or NR₆, wherein each R₆ is hydrogen, cyano or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens);

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each independently

hydrogen, halogen, or nitro, or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with one or more halogens;

OR₇, SR₇, S(O)R₇, S(O)₂R₇, C(O)N(R₇)₂, or N(R₇)₂, wherein each R₇ is independently hydrogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens) or benzyl, where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups

independently selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino;
~~phenyl or heteroaryl each of which phenyl or heteroaryl~~ which
 is optionally substituted with up to three groups
 independently selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino;
 phenoxy where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted
 with up to three groups independently selected from
 halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or
 di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino; or
~~a group of the formula~~



where

~~J is a bond, CH₂, oxygen, or nitrogen; and
 each r is independently 2 or 3;~~

R₅ is hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, or -O⁻M⁺ where M⁺ is a cation forming
 a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; and

Ar represents benzothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, isoquinolyl,
 benzothiophen-yl, benzofuran-yl or benzimidazolyl, or
 substituted oxadiazolyl or indolyl, each of which is
 optionally substituted with up to ~~five~~ four groups
independently selected from halogen, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₆

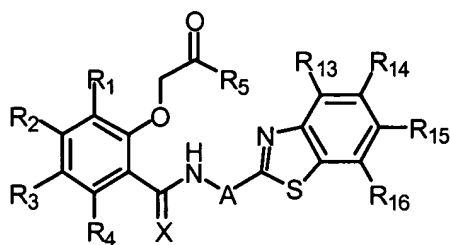
alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylthio, trifluoromethyl,
trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylsulfinyl, and C₁-C₆
alkylsulfonyl.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is ~~a covalent bond or~~ CH₂; R₅ is hydroxy; and each of R₁-R₄ are independently hydrogen, halogen, ~~more preferably bromo, chloro or fluoro~~, C₁-C₂ alkyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, or C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claims 4-17 (cancelled).

Claim 18. (currently amended) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein

A is a ~~covalent bond~~, C₁-C₄ alkylene group optionally substituted with C₁-C₂ alkyl;

X is oxygen, sulfur or NR_6 , wherein each R_6 is hydrogen, cyano or an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens);

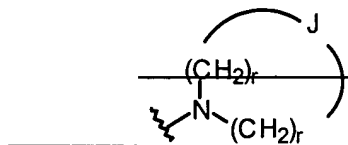
R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are each independently

hydrogen, halogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens), nitro, OR_7 , SR_7 , S(O)R_7 , $\text{S(O)}_2\text{NR}_7$, $\text{C(O)N(R}_7)_2$ or $\text{N(R}_7)_2$, wherein each R_7 is independently hydrogen, an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms (which may be substituted with one or more halogens) or benzyl, where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkylamino;

~~phenyl or heteroaryl such as 2-, 3- or 4-imidazolyl or 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, each of which phenyl or heteroaryl~~
which is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkylamino;

phenoxy where the phenyl portion is optionally substituted with up to three groups independently selected from halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkoxy, amino, and mono- or di($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$)alkylamino; or

~~a group of the formula~~



where

~~J is a bond, CH₂, oxygen, or nitrogen; and
each r is independently 2 or 3;~~

R₅ is hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, or -O⁻M⁺ where M⁺ is a cation forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; and

R₁₃, R₁₄, R₁₅ and R₁₆ are independently hydrogen, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylthio, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylsulfinyl, or C₁-C₆ alkylsulfonyl.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R₁₃, R₁₄, R₁₅ and R₁₆, in combination, represent (a) three hydrogens and one of bromo, cyano or nitro, (b) hydrogen atoms and one or two of fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or trifluoromethyl, or (c) one hydrogen atom and two fluoro or two methyl with one hydroxy or one (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, or (d) one hydrogen atom and two fluoro and one methyl, or (e) one hydrogen and three fluoro groups.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_{13} , R_{14} , R_{15} and R_{16} independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, nitro, ~~and~~ or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~18~~ 19, wherein A is methylene, ~~methylene substituted with a methyl group~~, or ethylene.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21, wherein R_{13} , R_{14} , R_{15} and R_{16} , in combination, ~~independently~~ represent (a) three hydrogens and one nitro, (b) hydrogen(s) and one, two, or three of fluoro, (c) hydrogen(s) and one or two of chloro, or (d) three hydrogens and one trifluoromethyl group.

Claim 23. (original) A compound according to claim 22, wherein A is methylene, and R_5 is hydroxy or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy.

Claim 24. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 23, wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, halogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, alkoxy, amino, or mono or di(C_1 - C_3 alkyl)amino, ~~morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl~~.

Claim 25. (original) A compound according to claim 24, wherein R_{13} , R_{14} and R_{16} are fluorines and R_{15} is hydrogen.

Claim 26. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18, wherein R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, C₁-C₂ alkyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, C₁-C₂ alkoxy, amino, or mono or di(C₁-C₃ alkyl)amino, ~~morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl.~~

Claim 27. (cancelled)

Claim 28. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 18 ~~27~~, wherein R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, C₁-C₂ alkyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, C₁-C₂ alkoxy, amino, or mono or di(C₁-C₃ alkyl)amino, ~~morpholinyl, piperidin-1-yl, or piperazin-1-yl.~~

Claim 29. (original) A compound according to claim 28, wherein both R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 29, wherein at least one of R₂ and R₃ is hydrogen, and both R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen.
~~which is selected from:~~

Claims 31-38 (cancelled).

Claim 39 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, which is

{5-Fluoro-2[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid; ~~or~~

{5-Fluoro-2[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester i

{5-Fluoro-2-[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-thiocarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid;

{5-Fluoro-2-[(4,5,7-trifluoro-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-thiocarbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester;

{5-Fluoro-2-[(5-trifluoromethyl-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid; or

{5-Chloro-2-[(5-trifluoromethyl-benzothiazol-2-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-phenoxy}-acetic acid.

Claims 40-41 (cancelled).

Claim 42. (original) A pharmaceutical composition

comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an predetermined amount of a compound according to claim 1.

Claims 43-45 (cancelled).

Claim 46. (withdrawn) A method for treating diabetic complications comprising administering to a patient suffering from such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claims 47-48 (cancelled).

Claim 49 (withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of the development of disease conditions associated with impaired neuronal conduction velocity comprising administering to a patient suffering from or prone to develop such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claim 50 (withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of diabetic neuropathy comprising administering to a patient suffering from or prone to develop such complications an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1.

Claims 51-53 (Cancelled)